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Back at Governor.

'STARTLING CHARGE" IS REFUTED

Editorial in Lexington Herald Based Upon Governor Willson's Recent Louisville Speech Calls Forth a Response From the Gentlemen Whose Acts Have Been Questioned.

The Lexington Herald in an editoriul of March 31, 1908, quoted, under the heading "A Startling Charge," what were reported to it as excerpts from the speech of Governor Willson, delivered at the meeting of the Law and Order League at Louisville. That editorial closed with this paragraph:

We publish these excerpts from Governor Willson's speech without comment this morning, desiring simply to call attention to them and wishing to hear the answers of the heads of the Tobacco Growers' Association before we comment on them."

Notwithstanding the statement that We have aiv ee calls for over the editor does not comment on the speech, the editorial says:

'The almost inevitable conclusion drawn from these statements is that Governor Willson believes and intends March, has created a shortage of to convey the impression that he has grounds for the belief, that there is a working basis between the tobacco associations and the American tobacco Positions paying \$60 to \$90 per trust, the logical conclusion of which would be the elimination on the one hand of the independent grower, and on the other hand of the independent

As the Herald through this editorial has called upon the heads of the tobacco growers' association for a re-Enter at any time. Write for full sponse to the charges made in this speech of the Governor, we, as the Executive Committee and Officers of the Burley Tobacco Society, which is one of the various growers associations referred to in the speech under the general head of the Society of Equity, feel obliged to make some brief response, out of respect for the standing of this paper and for the office of Governor in this state from which these charges emanate, but this response is not made because it is felt by the leaders and officers of this organization that the charges made and No. 25 Chicago-Nashville Lt. 4:35 a m suggested in the speech referred to No. 321 Nashville Mail. . . . 11:30 a m are in any way believed by the peo-No. 205 Hopkinsville Ex. ... 3:55 p m ple of this state, or that they will receive any serious consideration at the hands of the citizens of Kentucky. It will be necessary in this response to briefly summarize the statements made in the speech to which the editorial refers, and from which it draws the "inevitable conclusion" above stated.

given in the editorial is correct for the purpose of this response, as none of from tyrannical laws or the abuses or the leaders or officers of the organiza- neglect of those entrusted with their tion were notified of, or invited to be enforcement. present at, the meeting referred to in Louisville, and did not hear the speech. At the outset the Governor ple response is that there is no foun-Med. Co., St. Louis. All Druggists cell it. asks, "Why have not some of you tobacco growers done something to statement. The space allotted to us the trust, either in court or to its prop- in this article does not permit us to esty or to its men?" This he follows with the charge that nothing has been | to disprove this statement, were it indone by anyone to "a trust man or a trust piece of property or a trust pound of tobacco." He says: "It is ling and preposterous, and with the gether, and the unfortunate people little consideration, that we do not who love liberty and want each man deem it necessary to do more than to to do what he pleases were ground to death between them." Following this he classifies the growers' associations are ready, if desired, to substantiate as "farmers' trusts" and the American Tobacco Company as the "Ameriery injury suffered has been by either dent manufacturer of tobacco. From this he turns to the leaders and execuspeech necessarily refers to the writers of this response, who are representatives of one of the tobacco growers' associations in this state. Under various farmers' trusts have gotten into the hands of a number of acute standing in this section of Kentneky and shrewd managers who are intox- prevents us from so far debasing ouricated with the love of power that has come to them, and they are determinfree country, or that the constitution that this is a free country," or we do guarantees liberty; they simply are determined that every man in their disrule of terror and fear. They kill the dent, they murder the poor with blacksnake whips and thorns; Equity: I believe that ninetenths of the members of that society are good men; but what does all this do?"

He then draws his conclusion: "If ever these people to make them get into the rule of the tobacco associations, either one of them, to obey their rule, what do you think those outrages are committed for, and who permits them to go on?"

Is it surprising that the Herald should publish this under the head ers have organized for their protecing "A Stautling Charge," and to 45 not tion against the tobacco trust, that all incombent upon us as the officers and acts of lawlessness by whomsoever

from the Governor, and attention is called to it by an editorial in one of our leading papers.

It cannot be gainsaid that atrocious ourrages have been committed in Kentucky that have grown out of and have unquestionably flowed directly from the tobacco situation, which is simply this: That for years either the laws of Kentucky or those charged with their enforcement, including the Chief Executive of this stare, have suffered and permitted a trust known as the American Tobacco Company to oppress the grovers of tobacco throughout the commonwealth. It was not the duty of the people, but those who represented them, either in the Legislature or on the bench or in the various executive and administrative offices throughout the state, to protect the citizens engaged in the growing of tobacco. This duty, as suggested, has been for years wholly neglected. This being true, when this oppression had reached the point where it could not be longer stood by those who suffered directly from it, the farmers themselves organized these various associations solely to secure the protection which their representatives had failed to secure for them. The sole object of these associations was to procure if possible the fair marketable value of their crop. The formation of this organization was permitted by an act of the legislature, and so far the same has been recognized as lawful and constitutional by the courts. There certainly can be no blame attached to the farmers for the organization of these associations. But if their organization and their attempt to protect themselves against the oppression of the tobacco trust has resulted in a conflict, under the cover of which outrages have been committed, who are primarily and directly responsible for these lawless acts, the trust and the neglect of the representatives of the people which necessitated the formation of these protective organizations, or the organizations themselves? In other words, are the people to blame when they have been forced by a lawtess and unrestrained trust to form these associations authorized by law for their nec-

essury protection? We would say in answer to the governor's question, "Why have not some of you tobacco growers done something to the trust, either in court or to its property or to its men?" that, if nothing has been done the blame rests with those representing the people, from the Governor down. If vigorous steps had been taken by those lawfully entrusted with this duty to prevent the oppression of the trust, the cause of the trouble would have been removed and these associations would never have been formed. For this resson we say that upon the Governor and his associates in the making administration and execution of the laws rests the blame and responsibility for the present situation.

It has been the history of the American people from the time when the tea was thrown overboard in Boston harbor down to the present time, that general lawlessness and rebellion of the people has resulted directly either

As to the charge that "the two trusts are working together," our simdation in fact for this or any similar introduce all of the evidence necessary cumbent upon us to disprove an unsupported charge, but it is so startas if the two trusts were working to people of Kentucky will receive so thus publicly brand it as untrue and unwarranted. The facts and evidences this statement. As to the personal charge made against the officers of can trust," and he reiterates that ev- the Burley Tobacco Society, together with the other officers of the various an independent grower or an indepen- associations, we simply answer for ourselves. We regret exceedingly that the Governor of Kentucky should tive officers of the tobacco growers' so far forget himself in the exciteassociations, and this part of his ment of the moment to express or even harbor any thought that the offcers of this society should be so accused. We believe that the Governor will withdraw this charge. He should this head he says: "The offices of the publicly apologize for making it. Even a decent respect for ourselves and our selves as to enter into a discussion of this charge, as to whether or not we ed that no man shall dispute their have become "intoxicated with the rule. They do not care that this is a love of power" or "that we do not care not care "that the constitution guarantees Mberty," or that we are detertrict shall obey their rule and the mined "that every man shall obey our rule of terror and fear," or "that we have killed the independent, or murfarmer at his door; they whip him dered the poor, humble farmer at his door," or "whipped him with black they burn his home over his sleeping snake whips and thorns, or "burned family's head; they burn his barn. his barn." We do, however, call atten-Somebody, I don't say the Society of tion to the fact that the Governor does exoperate the Society of Equity from these charges, and has charged them directly against us who hold the offices in this association. Our piec is you see a hundred outrages, one after not guilty, and unless the Governor another, every one of which is used apologizes for this statement, we call upon him publicly for his proof. With the people who know us, we do not feel it necessary to do more than

> an inflamed mind In effect it is charged in this speech in conclusion, that because the farm-

> spurn this charge as the product of

this. It may be true that these offenses have not been committed against this society or its members, but is that to be considered as evifence that the executive officers of the society have done these things or been parties in any way to the perpetration of these crimes? We have no sympathy with lawlessness in any of its various forms. We stand for upholding the law and for its enforcement, and we sincerely believe that the present deplorable state of affairs In our state is due to the non-enforcement of the laws on the statute book, which has continued for many years, and we further believe that the disease cannot be cured except by eradicating the cause. Our society, and we as its representatives, are as powerless as the people of whom we only form a part to prevent the violence which is the natural outburst of a des-

perate condition. At Washington and in most of the other states the Chief Executives and others entrusted with the enforcement of the laws against trusts have long since been aroused and have put n motion the engines of the law to throw off these yokes that have so galled and burdened their people, but here in Kentucky these officers have only awakened at the cry of despair, to condemn the people for disturbing their sigmbers. Remove the cause, give the people protection assainst this trust, and you may return to your rest in peace. CLARENCE LEBUS,

Chairman. S. T. PREWITT. RHODES B. THOMAS, JOHN E. BROWN, S. A. SHANKLIN, FRED STUCY. J. R. BASCOM. Executive Committee.

# GREEDY LANDLORDS CRY "POOR TENANT"

Contributor Has No Fear for Those Who "Cut Out" Tobacco Crop-Applies Golden Rule.

(Lexington Herald.) To the Editor of the Herald:

Having read so much about the "poor tenant" with the 1908 crop cut out, I would like to ask space in your paper to say a few words in negard to

As to the condition of the tenants in such counties as Fayette, Bourbon, Clark, Scott and other central Blue Grass counties, who have sold both their 1906 and 1907 crops, I know nothing except by comparison of conditions existing in those counties with those in this (Pleming) county.

The tenants of Fleming county who have sold their 1906 and 1907 crops of tobacco at the high prices emisting for those two crops, are in the best condition financially I have ever known them in twenty years' experience with

For instance, to illustrate I will cite you to my own tenants, who, when they had sold and delivered their 1907 the year, such as groceries, clothes, hired help in crop, etc., one had the sum of \$550 left, another \$250, and still another \$375

Now with anything like management, and raising sufficient corn to fatten their meat hogs, vegetables of all kinds sufficient for the use of their families, which they will do this year (and by the way will require but a small part of their time), how will it be possible for those tenants to starve before the 1909 crop is grown and

These tenants have worked hard for years, and the time has never been before until the existing high prices, that they could afford to lay off a year for rest, from the hardest, filthiest work one can imagine, that of raising tobacco. Could there be a more opportune time for a year of rest for this tenant than the year 1908? I am sure that you will agree with me that there could not. These tenants are more than willing, and perfectly satisfled to raise no tobacco this year.

I think a great deal, and in fact most of the trouble about wanting to grow a crop this year is caused by greedy, selfish landlords, wanting to have a crop grown and shielding themselves by taking up the cause of the 'poor tenant."

In my experience of twenty years with tenants, and during the many hardships I have seen them undergo, have never yet heard the one-hundredth part of the sympathy expressed for them that is now being expressed by independent growing landlords, and it reminds me very much of a coward have heard of when in a fight would hold a little child between him and his enemy, exposing it to the bullets, and thereby shielding himself.

I have in my mind a wealthy grower of a not far distant county, who in the last few weeks has been in such great sympathy with the "poor tenant," deploring his almost certain fate of starvation, if the 1908 grop be eliminated, who two or three winters ago actually charged his tenant for "pasturing" a hen on his premises through the winter.

Now does anyone for a moment believe that such a landlord's sympathy for the "poor tenant" was prompted by any sympathy he had for him or his? Far from it, but only by his desire to find some excuse by which he could have a crop raised and still trather swell the bulging sides of his own pocketbook-a clear case of the coward and the child.

As still further illustrating the fact that it is the greed and selfishness of to respond to this charge? Not, as we tobacco situation, are necessarily the landlord pushing the tenant into have said, because it may be believed chargeable to the toliscon societies. the raising of a crop this year, I said by the people, but because it comes Nothing could be more unjust than to a tenant in Flemingsburg inst court

day, "what are you going to do about raising a crop of tobacco this year? To my astonishment he answered, "Cut it out if I have my way," for I had already heard that his landlord had said that he had contracted with his tenants before the no-crop idea was originated, and that his tenants were holding him to it.

I think if an investigation of the cases of tenants wanting to raise a crop this year was made, it would show up about like the case cited. As to the condition of the tenants in the central Blue Grass counties as mentioned in the beginning of this letter. I can only judge by a comparison of the fertility of the soil, etc., in those counties, with that of this county (Fleming), which would favor a better yield in said counties, and the tenants' condition should be correspondingly

In a grower's article in your issue

of March 26th he says: "Should the Equity tobacco all be sold at 15 cents, and the 'legitimate expense' be paid, such as president, county chairman, speakers, etc., the grower will not realize more than 814 or 9 cents." Granting such to be true for the sake of argument (for such is the only way I would grant it, as I do not believe the expense, everything considered, will amount to anything like that amount) he is still ahead about two dollars over what he would have received had the Equity or pool never existed, and in addition we independent growers are ahead something like \$5 per 100 pounds on the 1907 crop and four dellars on the 1906, and the most important consideration yet-the greatest victory in the history of the country has been won-that of the tobacco grower over the tobacco trust. This grower also says: "There are officials in the society who will take the advantage of the growers."

In answer to the last assertion I will say no man ever saw anything on so large a scale as this movement among the tobacco growers that was perfected in so short a time as it has been before the people, and if when the pooled tobacco is all sold, and by the settlement with the growers, such a state of affairs is found to exist, then let each and every grower (independent and Equity) in the white burley district come out to their respective precincts and join in organizing a society and putting in as officials of such the very best men the country affords (of which I think the present society has a great number), then when such has been accomplished, let us all growers to a man stand by those officials with no scale, or dumpers, like we independent growers have been, in the ranks to cause the trouble experienced by the present society

Speaking for myself as an independent grower (as I am not in the Equity or pool), I do not see how I could desire to raise a crop this wear and thereby break down the man in the pool that has made possible the good prices I received for my 1906 and 1907 CIUDS.

For instance, I sold and delivered to the American Tobacco Company a few weeks ago, \$8,000 pounds of tobacco that brought me more than did 60,000 pounds I sold in 1905, or 53,000 pounds I sold in 1906. What brought about such a price as this? Certainly there can be but one answer, the pool, and it is a clear case that I was benefited to the extent of \$1,000 by the existence of the pool, in the price I received for this one crop, not saying anything about the benefit I received in the sale of the 1906 crop.

Yet I feel that by the statutory law I have a right to do as I please with that which belongs to me, and a perfect right to raise a crop of tobacco this year if I want to, but by the higher and most just law-God's and the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," I have no right to raise a crop this year, and I shall not want to until I see my fellow-men in the pool placed upon an equal footing with myself, by selling his tobacco at the Equity price.

I think the best way to bring about peaceful solution of the present deplorable state of affairs would be for people to quit talking and writing newspaper articles only calculated to create strife and bitterness, go home to their farms and get busy at something other than raising tobacco, and they would be surprised to see how quickly peace would be restored, how much easier their consciences would feel, and how few tenants would starve to death before the 1909 crop of tobacco was grown and marketed. INDEPENDENT GROWER.

#### THE GOVERNOR AND THE FARM. ERS.

Governor Willson has raised the serious question as to whether the movement of the tobacco growers is an honest, sincere effort on the part of the men engaged in this industry to secure a fair price for their product, or whether it is the scheme of shrewd. ambitious leaders to satisfy their own greed for gain and their ambition for power. . . If the Governor is right the Society of Equity and all of the organizations of farmers for advancing the price of tobacco ought to be stamped out, and vigorous measures ought to be taken to this end . . If the Governor is wrong he has done a gross injustice to many of the very best citizens of Kentucky. He has made grave charges not only against the whole body of farmers, but against their leaders. Whether right or wrong, as the matter now stands, he puts himself in the attitude of antagonism to every purpose of the Society of Equity and the organizations of the tobacco growers.--Kentucky Evening

Gazette.

### First Baptist Church.

Rev. J. H. Butler, Pastor. Services every Sabbath at 11 a. m nd 7 p. m.

Prayer meeting every Thursday night Business meeting on Thursday night. before 4th Sunday.

Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 a. m., Deacon J. P. Pierce, Supt.

#### Presbyterian Church.

(Cor. Main and Depot Streets.)

T. M. Hurst, Minister. Preaching services, First, Third and Fifth Sundays at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m., Communion, or the Lord's Supper, Third Sundays in February, May, August and October.

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday, W. E. Minner, Supt. Bible class every Sunday at 2:30 p m., Dr. R. I., Moore and Rev. Jas. F.

Price, teachers. Laidies Aid Society meets every Thursday afternoon, Mrs. J. F. Price, President.

Womens Missionary Society meets Thursday after the First Sunday in each month. Mrs. T. C. Guess, Prest.

#### Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Rev. J. B. Adams, Pastor. Preaching every Sunday at 11 a. m Prayer meeting each Wednesday

Ladies Aid Society meets each Thursday evening at place appointed. Mrs. W. J. Deboe, President.

Womens Missionary Society meets Monday after each second Sunday, Mrs H. K. Woods, President.

Epworth League meets each Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. Gray Rochester, President.

### Christian Church.

J. W. Flynn, Pastor. Regular services Second Sunday in

Sunday school every Sunday at 10 'cleck. J. C. Wallace, Supt. Ladies Aid Society meets every Thursday. Mrs. J. P. Pierce, Prest.

### Bigham Lodge, No. 256, F. &. A. M.

Regular meeting Saturday night before full moon in each month T. Atchison Frazer, W. M. W. Lamb, Sr. W. . L. Travis, Jr. W. W. D. Cannan, Treas. Bell Kevil, Secy. W. Haynes, Sr. D. G. B. Taylor, Jr. D.

V. Franks, Steward. Albert Elder, Rev. R. C. Love, Chaplain. D. L. Bryant, Tyler.

Crittenden Chapter, No. 70, R. A. M. Regular meeting on Saturday night after full moon. P. C. STEPHENS, H. P.

BELL KEVIL, Secretary Wingate Council, No. 35, R. & S. M. Regular meeting second Monday night in each month.

#### J. L. RANKIN, T. I. M. J. BELL KEVIL, Secretary

Marion Camp. No. 11576, M. W. A.

Regular meetings first and third Tuesday nights in each month Ed Metz, Past Con. Com. U. G. Hughes, Con. Com. John Cochran, Adv. Lieut. Chas. D. Haynes, Banker. W. E. Minner, Clerk. W. Flynn, Escort. Cleveland Stone, Chief Forester, A. M. Henry, Watchman. R. H. Elder, Sentry.

# Rosewood Camp, No. 22, W. O. W.

Regular meetings on second and fourth Monday nights in each month, A. J. Butler, Past Con. Com. Wm. H. Clark, Con. Com. Gray Rochester, Adv. Lieut. Robt. E. Wilborn, Banker. S. H. Ramage, Clerk. Carey Henry, Escort.
A. H. Fritts, Watchman.
J. W. Wilson and T. W. Champion

Sentrys. A. S. Cannan, A. J. Butler and Jas. H. Orme, Managers. T. Atchison Frazer, A. J. Driskill Walter Travis, Camp Physicians.

# Watstina Iribe, No. 224, I. O. R. M.

Regular meetings on second and fourth Tuesday nights in each month. Robt, E. Wilborn, Sachem. E. Weldon, Prophet. Walter McConnell, Sr. Sagamore. Wathen Rankin, Jr. S. H. Ramage, Keeper of Wampum, C. V. Franks, Chief of Records. Jas. Tolley, Guard of Wigwam.

# Blackwell Ledge, No. 57, K. of P.

Regular meeting second and fourth riday night in each month. C. C. Taylor, C. C. John W. Wilson, V. C. John W. Wilson, V. C.
Geo. M. Crider, Prelate.
C. W. Haynes, K. R. & S.
J. B. Sedberry, M. F.
Gus Taylor, M. E.
R. L. Flanary, M. A.
J. F. Dodge, Master of Work.

# New Marion Lodge, No. 198, I. O. O. F.

Regular meetings every Thursday night at 7:30. Rufus McMican, N. G. Walter McConnell, V. G. J. B. Grissom, Treas. G. L. Dial, Warden. Rev. R. C. Love, Chaplain. John B. Sedberry, Fin. and R. Secy

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